

Filed for intro on 03/31/98

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 644
By Williams (Wil)

A RESOLUTION to express the intention of the general assembly
with respect to the proceeds of a state lottery.

WHEREAS, in November 1998, Tennesseans will be given the chance to vote on a
statewide constitutional convention for the purpose of considering a statewide lottery; and

WHEREAS, the findings of this constitutional convention could include the specific
finding that Tennessee should have a statewide lottery; and

WHEREAS, the voters of Tennessee would then have to ratify the results of this
constitutional convention in order to establish a statewide lottery in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's citizens are centrally concerned with the state of public
education in Tennessee today; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the government of Tennessee to provide its children with the
best public education possible; and

WHEREAS, a statewide lottery in Tennessee would produce a large revenue for the
state of Tennessee, which revenues could be used to help fund new public education programs;
now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-
HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE
CONCURRING, That if Tennessee should have a statewide lottery:

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(1) All of the state's proceeds from this lottery should be put into a trust fund for public education in Tennessee.

(2) This trust fund should be used to ensure that Tennessee's children have the best possible system of public education. The trust fund should ensure this by providing crucial programs for public education that may include the following:

(A) Funding for college scholarships for students who have maintained not less than a B average during high school;

(B) Funding for K-12 school systems for the purpose of lowering the student-teacher ratio;

(C) Funding for building construction for those schools which are overcrowded and in which students are forced to attend class in portable buildings. This funding would help ensure that no Tennessee student would have to try to learn in a portable classroom; and

(D) Funding to help implement a fourth grade literacy passport testing system in Tennessee. This testing system would raise standards in our schools by ensuring that all students know how to read by the fourth grade. Students who cannot pass the reading test should be given remedial instruction so that they may improve their reading skills to correspond to their respective grade levels. The education trust fund should be used both to implement testing of reading skills, and also to hire the reading specialists needed to improve students' reading skills to correspond with their respective grade levels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each delegate to the constitutional convention.